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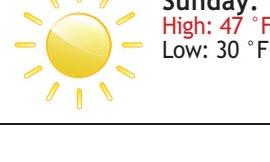
the collegian

INDEPENDENT VOICE FOR KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY



VOL. 118 NO. 85

kstatecollegian.com



03

Crushing conformity
International students
pushed into religion,
one writer says

06

What's coming up
See Sports for a quick
look at K-State's
weekend schedule

07

Your best quotes
The Forum responds
to the featured posts
of the week

SNYDER AGREES TO STAY WITH K-STATE FOOTBALL

5 MORE YEARS



Emily DeShazer | Collegian

It was announced Thursday that K-State football head coach Bill Snyder has signed a five-year, \$14.75 million contract extension that will keep him a Wildcat through the 2017 season. Snyder's payment under the contract starts at \$2.75 million in 2013 with a \$100,000 increase every year after. Under the contract, Snyder can opt to retire before 2017 without financial penalty. Athletic director Currie called Snyder's efforts to build K-State's football program "truly remarkable and inspirational."

Mark Kern
sports editor

After leading the K-State Wildcats to the Fiesta Bowl and a Big 12 Conference championship for the first time since 2003, head football coach Bill Snyder has agreed to a new contract. Athletic director John Currie said it was a win for K-State.

"Coach Snyder's daily drive, focus and energy in continuing to build the K-State football program are truly remarkable and inspirational," Currie said. "While he is not one to focus attention on himself, President [Kirk] Schulz and I felt that it was important to recognize, in this very significant way, his tremendous leadership and commitment to continuing to lead the K-State football program."

The contract is a five-year deal worth \$14.75 million. Snyder's salary will be \$2.75 million dollars in 2013 with an annual increase of \$100,000 every season after that. Snyder said that the people of K-State are the reason he is here.

"My entire family and I have been so very grateful for the genuine, caring and loyal support K-Staters have provided our coaches, staff, families and young people on a yearly basis," Snyder said. "As I have stated so often, we came to Kansas State because of the people, stayed because of the people and returned because of the people, and that remains unchanged."

Snyder's contract includes a \$2 million buyout. If he chooses to retire before his contract is over, he will not have to pay anything back to the university. Otherwise, Snyder will be 78 years old when the contract ends in 2017.

Sound off: Snyder's K-State future



Emily DeShazer | Collegian

Bill Snyder speaks after the Wildcats won the Big 12 Conference trophy last year by defeating Texas on Dec. 1, 2012. Snyder said he came back to K-State, and stayed, because of the people here.



Andy Rao



Mark Kern



Austin Nichols

Any K-State fans who were worried that Bill Snyder might retire after the departures of coaches Michael Smith and Joe Bob Clements can stop worrying. On Thursday, Snyder signed a five-year, \$14.75 million contract, ensuring he will

be with the Wildcats through the 2017 season. Here is a look at what a couple of the editors for the Collegian think this means for the program.

Andy Rao, editor-in-chief

21-5. Otherwise known as

Bill Snyder's record as the head coach of the Wildcats in 2011 and 2012.

The legendary coach brings a discipline and winning attitude for this team that was

SOUND | pg. 4

Manhattan, national news briefs

Darrington Clark
managing editorK-State department head
died this week

Alok Bhandari, K-State Civil Engineering department head, died Wednesday after a long stretch of battling cancer.

Bhandari was a published researcher and taught CE 101 and 766 at K-State. He was honored by K-State as a Big 12 faculty fellow in 2002 and as a fellow in the American Society of Civil Engineers in 2011.

Texas prosecutor shot
outside law office

Prosecutor Mark Hasse was shot and killed Thurs-

day after a short confrontation in the parking lot of the Kaufman County courthouse in Kaufman, Texas, according to a CNN article published Thursday.

Hasse was described by his co-workers as a remarkably proficient prosecutor, and investigators are currently attempting to determine whether Hasse's shooting is related to any court cases he was a part of.

The shooter is still at large, and a sum of \$20,000 is being offered as a reward for tips leading to the killer.

Mexico City oil headquar-
ters explodes

Pemex Executive Tower,

the state headquarters of major Mexico oil company Pemex, exploded Thursday, killing 14 and wounding 80. Police have no explanation for how the explosion occurred, but Pemex had reported problems with the facility's electricity earlier in the day.

The tower, located in Mexico City, stands in a heavily populated commercial area. Employees trapped in the rubble and inside the building could not be contacted through cell phone, BBC News reported Thursday.

Pemex President Enrique

BRIEFS | pg. 8

Parachute club offers students chance to hurtle through thin air

Mike Stanton
assistant news editor

If you head to Abilene, Kan., at the right time on most Saturday mornings, you just might catch a glimpse of something you don't see on campus: a K-State student hurtling through the air as a wide-body Cessna 182 flies overhead.

According to Skylar January, president of the K-State Parachute Club and senior

in agronomy, the group has almost 50 students who regularly fly to heights exceeding 5,000 feet and hurl themselves into oblivion.

"We started back in the '60s," said January, who has made more than 200 jumps since he joined the club as a freshman. "Back then it was just military surplus stuff, and they'd just kind of go up, jump out and that was about it. Then, it kind of just evolved into a skydiving sport, and you

can enter competitions."

January competed in the United States Parachute Association's Collegiate National Skydiving Competition over winter break, along with three other K-State jumpers, and took second place in accuracy. He said the K-State team has a proud tradition, boasting a gold medalist and a fourth-place finisher in last year's competition.

CLUB | pg. 8

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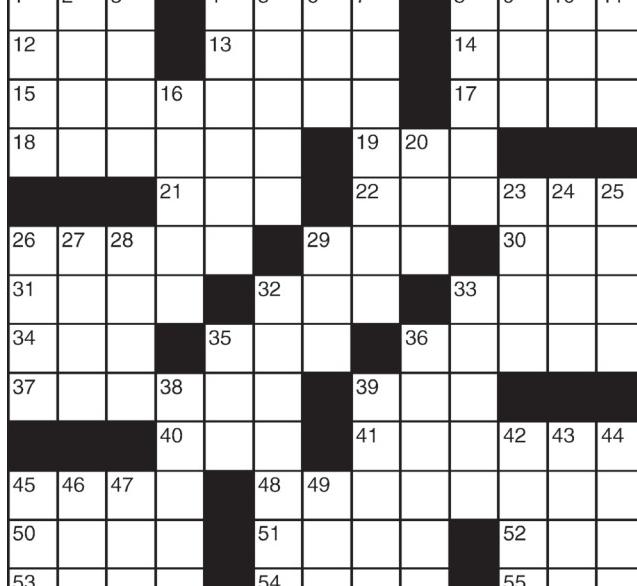
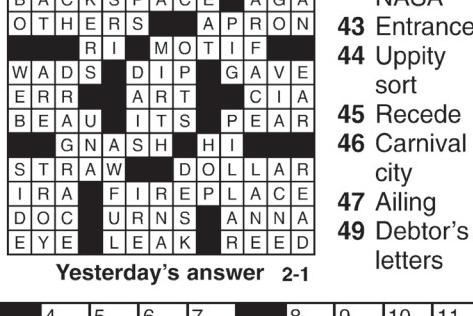
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4 Beach stuff	37 Restrainted	24 Aptly named fruit?	23 First son
8 Part of the foot?	39 Evergreen type	25 Sawbucks	24 Aptly named fruit?
12 Supplement, with "out"	40 Trawler need	26 23- Down's victim	25 Sawbucks
13 From the start	41 Tips over	27 Lily variety	26 23- Down's victim
14 In the vicinity	45 Ontario neighbor	28 Boast	27 Lily variety
15 Congratulatory slap	48 Gary Cooper movie	29 Tarzan's son	28 Boast
17 Oodles	50 Tab	30 Beats	29 Tarzan's son
18 Open	51 Small grimace	33 Singer	30 Beats
19 Meadow	52 Stickum	34 Akers	33 Singer
21 G.I.'s dinner, for short	53 Weevil's target	35 Infinitesimal	34 Akers
22 Showing cleavage	54 Litigant	36 Written code	35 Infinitesimal
26 Computer acronym	55 Sphere	38 Dead ringer?	36 Written code
29 Stein or Stiller		39 Bach piece, often	38 Dead ringer?
30 Life time?		42 Nixed, at NASA	39 Bach piece, often
31 Swiss capital		43 Entrance	42 Nixed, at NASA
32 Staff		44 Uppity sort	43 Entrance
33 Oven		45 Recede	44 Uppity sort
34 Swelled head		46 Carnival city	45 Recede
35 "Explain, please"		47 Ailing	46 Carnival city
		49 Debtor's letters	47 Ailing

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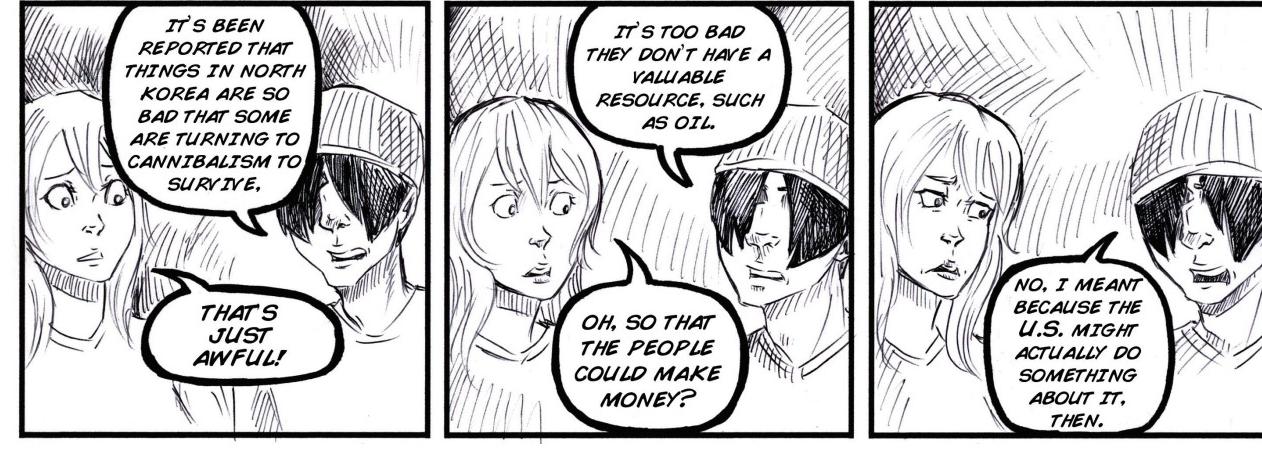


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Logan's Run | By Aaron Logan



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Letters may be rejected if they contain abusive content, lack timeliness, contain vulgarity, profanity or falsehood, promote personal and commercial announcements, repeat comments of letters printed in other issues or contain attachments.

The Collegian does not publish open letters, third-party letters or letters that have been sent to other publications or people.

CORRECTIONS

If you see something that should be corrected or clarified, call managing editor Darrington Clark at 785-532-6556 or email news@kstatecollegian.com.

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THE BLOTTER

ARREST REPORTS

Wednesday, Jan. 30

Jeffery Hilf Reed, of Riley, Kan., was booked for failure to appear. Bond was set at \$1,000.

Brandon Alexander Cameron, of the 700 block of Dondee Drive, was booked for probation violation. Bond was set at \$2,500.

Joshua Dean Weeks, of Wamego, was booked for stalking. Bond was set at \$10,000.

Stephen Chislum, of the 1500 block of Houston Street, was booked for failure to

appear. Bond was set at \$1,000.

Markus Dequel Johnson, of the 700 block of Pebblebrook Circle, was booked for domestic battery. Bond was set at \$500.

compiled by Katie Goerl



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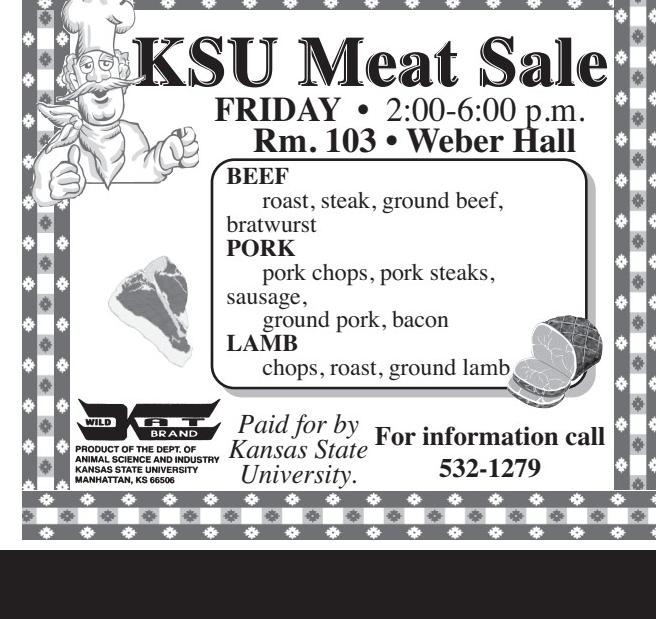
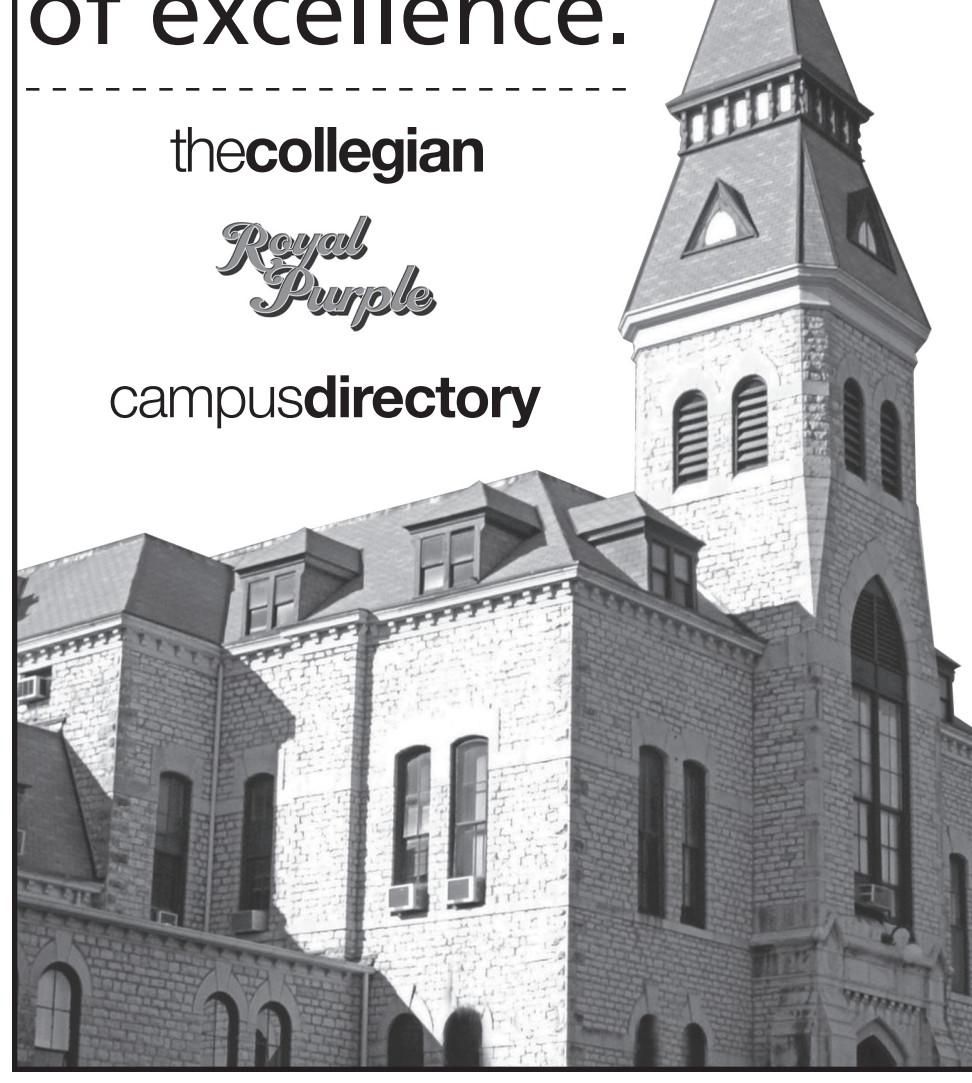
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International students pressured to convert in US



Illustration by Aaron Logan



Anurag Muthyam

America is a global center for education. Thousands of people from every corner of the globe come here every year for school in the hopes of attaining degrees, high-paying jobs, international exposure and career building. These international students participate in American culture by trying new food, traveling to new places and meeting new people.

They didn't come here to be converted to Christianity.

It's just not one of the goals they have in mind for their trip. If they were interested in converting to Christianity, they could have just as easily converted in their native countries. Most international students don't think about becoming a Christian before stepping foot in America.

Nonetheless, here at K-State, many international students are being targeted for conversion to

evangelical Christianity. No one is converting them by force, but the process takes up a lot of time that would otherwise help their education.

If you ask me, converting people to Christianity is not easy, but it's possible when done properly. For example, in the first week of a new semester at K-State, many Christian students seek out foreign students on campus (mainly in the Union) and get to know them. They are gracious and wish the students good luck on their semester and later get their names and email addresses. Over the weekend they provide community, friendship and help in the form of food and rides.

In my experience, the first step of conversion begins with food. Food brings people together, leading to friendships, which eventually lead to openly sharing views and opinions. Christian students then show religious movies that are visually stunning, consequently making a huge impression in order to tempt students to get involved.

Before or after the food, fun and deliberations, they give out free Bibles to the international students and make them read the

New Testament, thus inducing them to follow the holy book of Christianity. Often, the international students are invited to attend Christian conferences in Colorado, Florida and California to prompt them to convert.

Few international students convert to Christianity on their own without the influence of these evangelical students. Most of the international students I know who converted to Christianity did so due to peer pressure and the influence of their Christian friends. These students wouldn't have converted in their own countries; they are converting in the U.S. specifically because of the massive social influences being levied on them.

According to a March 10, 2011, ABC News article, the evangelical group InterVarsity Christian Fellowship has international student ministries on more than 60 college campuses — including K-State. The article cites an InterVarsity official who claims that 45 percent of all international students participating in InterVarsity groups are from China.

Why are these Christians more successful with Chinese international students than with students from, for example, Islamic coun-

tries? Could it have to do with the fact that the social benefits here are outweighed by the even greater social burden that Muslims often face when they return to their home countries? How can we possibly know which religion is right? What makes Christians so confident that committing to Jesus Christ is the best way for others to live their lives?

"Wouldn't it be better to serve people and help the needy rather than go to services? Isn't that what Jesus wanted?"

I've personally had many friends who converted religions and many experiences with people attempting to convert me as have many others. Li Weiyi, freshman in food science, has had his fair share.

"Currently I'm living in the dorms. When I came for the first time they tried converting me to Christianity by taking me to churches and their houses," Weiyi explained. "One of my friends living next to my door in the dorms started explaining about the Bible. The first time it was OK for me, but later on I felt bad for some reason."

So what makes Christians deem that their religion is the right one? Is it that for most of

them, Christianity is the dominant religion where they grew up? Christianity is, of course, not necessarily bad. Many good things can happen from it. Although Weiyi didn't choose to convert, many of his friends have had positive experiences.

"At first, Chinese were helpless because everything was new for us, but after they converted to Christianity they get more Christian friends," Weiyi said.

Christians shouldn't purposefully befriend international students just to get them to convert. What do the international students get from it if they do convert? Better grades? Better lives?

What's more important is whether there is room for education. Do you get closer to accomplishing your goals by converting? Do you get closer to your degree? It's better to learn, to explore more about your major and utilize the resources of the university than to spend your time in America wondering whether you should convert.

Anurag Muthyam is a sophomore in computer science. Please send comments to opinion@kstatecollegian.com.

Teacher with phobia of children forced to retire, school in the wrong



John Forsee

Maria C. Walther-Willard taught French for 35 years at Mariemont High School. When the Mariemont School District ended the French program in 2009, it also relocated her to the junior high, where she was then forced to resign. Why? Because she has a medically proven phobia of young children.

According to a Jan. 13 ABC News article by Alyssa Newcomb, the condition causes 61-year-old Walther-Willard's blood pressure to rise when in the presence of children, which increases her risk of a stroke. Walther-Willard is now suing the school for discrimination.

The question then arises — why did the school move Walther-Willard into an environment they knew she couldn't work in? Was it so that they could save money or were there other reasons involved? I believe the school was trying to force her to quit.

After Walther-Willard taught Spanish at the junior high for a year, she applied to return to the high school, this time to teach in the Spanish program. The school, however, did not accept her application and she was forced to resign. Afterwards, the school actually hired an additional teacher to the Spanish program at the high school.

Walther-Willard submitted medical documentation to the school stating that she could not teach at a level lower than high school, her lawsuit claims. It is clear that the school knew she would not be able to work at the junior high for long.

According to her lawsuit, as reported in the ABC News article, "Working with these younger students adversely affected [Walther-Willard's]

health, due to her disability." If the school district knew all this information ahead of time, why did administrators send her to work with younger students anyway?

Several concerns could have been the motivation for her transfer to the junior high school. One reason could be that she was no longer teaching effectively at the high school level and so they were forced to move her down to a lower level. Another could be that she was not getting along with the teaching staff, but they could not fire her for this, and so they moved her to a junior high in order to manipulate her into retirement. Perhaps it could be that she was not getting along with her students, creating tension in the classroom, and the school forced her to resign by moving her to teach younger children.

At any rate, not being straightforward with someone is not doing them justice and may come back to hurt you, which is what happened in this case. The school obviously wanted to let Walther-Willard go by manipulative means. This is not just, as we all deserve to know why we are no longer loved by an institution.

They should have been straightforward with Walther-Willard and either fired her or kept her on. If she was in fact not teaching the class as well as she could have been, the district should have fired her and given her a reason for it.

If administrators wanted her to resolve issues concerning staff or students, they should have strived to advise her on how to do so, then, if she failed, they could have proceeded to fire her.

If the only problem was that she was expensive to keep on and they wanted her to retire, that is unacceptable.

John Forsee is a junior in journalism and mass communication in digital media. Please send comments to opinion@kstatecollegian.com.

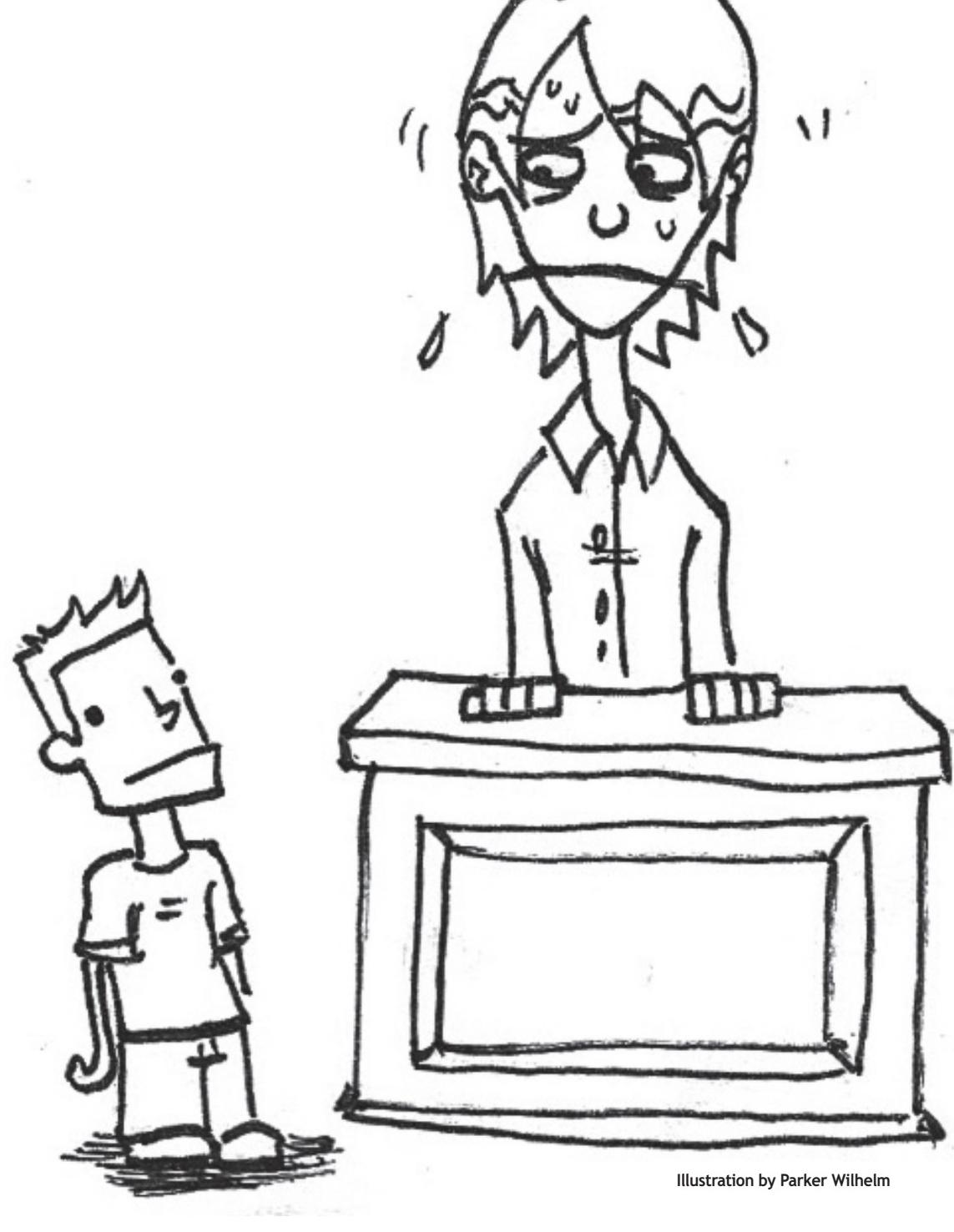


Illustration by Parker Wilhelm

SGA gears up to improve campus, recycle

Zach Foley
staff writer

Speakers visited the Student Governing Association to discuss student financial assistance and recycling on Thursday night. The meeting also included information on the upcoming SGA elections as well as the introduction of new legislation and information on various updates to campus.

The meeting, held in the Big 12 Room of the K-State Student Union, opened with a presentation from Jodi Kaus, director of Powercat Financial Planning. Kaus told the senators about a new program, SALT, that any K-State student or alum can use to keep track of loan data and maintain a budget. The program also helps students search for jobs and learn about identity theft.

"It is important to support students at critical times," Kaus said.

Kaus made a case to the SGA that because PFC helps more students every year, it is important that the organization expand its facilities. PFC's offices are currently located in the basement of Hale Library where there are no phones or cellphone service, making it difficult to aid students, Kaus said.

Bill Spiegel, custodial and

recycling supervisor, presented K-State's Recyclemania program at the meeting. The 10-week national competition will kick off on Feb. 3 and last until March 30.

According to Spiegel, more than 600 colleges nationwide participate in the annual push for recycling, including the University of Kansas. Spiegel said he hopes to recycle more than KU but admitted that President Kirk Schulz has a higher goal in mind.

"Last year we increased by 5 percent," Spiegel said. "This year President Schulz wants to increase by 10 percent."

In order to help the university reach Schulz's goal, Spiegel said starting Feb. 4, K-Staters can put all recyclables except glass into campus recycling bins for compete for the new contract.

"Hopefully this makes more incentive for students and faculty," Spiegel said. "We can make this happen as a team."

SGA senator Megan Walden, senior in industrial engineering, gave information about upcoming SGA elections. Forms to run for student senator or student body president are due by Feb. 15 at 4 p.m. More information is available at k-state.edu/elections.

Student body president Nate Spriggs, senior in agricultural economics, said various upgrades to the university have

been discussed recently and tentative plans should be shared soon. These projects include talks of building a new residence hall and conducting focus groups on the matter as well as the K-State Student Union renovation, which will have an impact on student privilege fees, but no definitive plans have yet been made.

Another change to campus could include a different Union bookstore. Varney's will stop providing services on June 31 of this year if the university and the store do not negotiate a new contract. Varney's and another company will both make presentations next week to compete for the new contract.

The final action of the night was to introduce new legislation. Proposed bills included allocating funds to student organizations like KSU Navigators, which requested funds for a trip to restore a camp in Colorado Springs that was damaged in a fire, and PussyCat Press, which requested funding to attend a printmaking conference. Other bills included updates SGA statutes and another for SNAC to bring in a speaker during Eating Disorder Awareness Week.

All of these bills will be debated and voted on during the next SGA meeting on Feb. 7 at 7 p.m. in the Big 12 Room in the Union.

Missing for most of the last decade.

SOUND | Departure still looms

Continued from page 1

Does this re-signing mean that much?

You bet it does. For K-State and Manhattan, re-signing their hero will, without doubt, energize this fan base even more.

Now, on to the next goal: winning a bowl game.

Mark Kern, sports editor

Any time you have one of the greatest college coaches ever to coach on your sidelines, it's definitely a huge plus. This is a big advantage for a program as it ensures this season's recruits that, barring some unforeseeable occurrence, they won't have to worry about having a new coach during their time as a Wildcat.

These days in college football, with many coaches seemingly ready to leave for the next job, to know your coach isn't leaving is a huge positive. As for next year, it is a huge plus.

Some are worried for the team next season due to this year's loss of 27 seniors. While these losses hurt, having Snyder combined with the offensive talent coming back next season, I think you are going to see the Wildcats right where they belong next year: at the top of the Big 12 standings.

Austin Nichols, news editor

K-State re-signing Bill Snyder to a five-year deal means the Wildcat uniforms are not going to change for at least another five years.

The extension also means K-State will continue to have arguably one of the best coaches in college football history with a lot of talent coming back next year, especially on the offensive side of the ball.

Bottom line for K-State: Bill Snyder is not going anywhere. Every K-State fan dreads the day that Snyder will decide to up and leave us once again. He does hold the power to retire before his contract is up, but odds are he will stick around until he is 78 years old and continue the success of the program.

This deal also takes some burden off of the fans and players worrying about when Snyder will retire, allowing the team to focus on winning.

Another positive outlook on this deal is that K-State has five more years to figure out who is going to be the next head football coach. Snyder has been a big advocate for his son, Sean Snyder, to take over in his father's footsteps, but it is still unclear what path K-State will take.

The last time Snyder decided to leave, Ron Prince took the helm and things did not work out very well for the program. The athletic department needs to utilize these next five years wisely to find a solid replacement who can continue to have success at a program that owes everything to one man.

Andy Rao is a junior in accounting and finance, Austin Nichols is a junior in journalism and mass communications and Mark Kern is a senior in print journalism. Please send comments to sports@kstatecollegian.com.

BRAMLAGE BEATS



Jason Derulo delights screaming audience

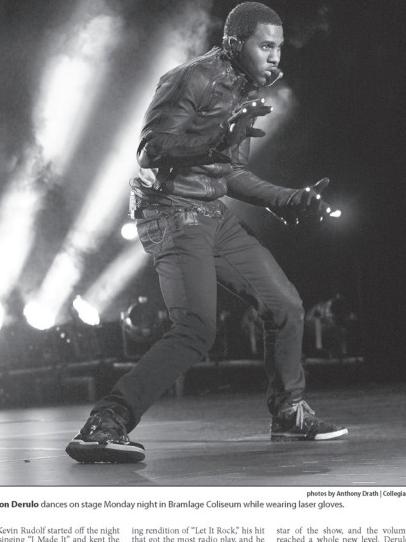
Kevin Rudolf warms up crowd, while Derulo's dancing satisfies

Austin Enns
coverage editor

Thousands of shrieking fans packed the Bramlage Coliseum to see Jason Derulo and Kevin Rudolf rock the house. Bramlage was not the only place where fans more than made up for the absence of the two artists. Jason Derulo's performance. Fans stood on their feet and cheered him along with the performers on stage.

Prior to the actual singing, the atmosphere was electric. The senior in economics, accounting minor, was the first to hit the stage to see the show with a friend. He was the first to get a standing ovation. We won our tickets through the Dancing With the Stars competition," said Linden said. "The Union Program Board was nice enough to present them to us. They certainly have rewarded us for our hard work."

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Kevin Rudolf dances on stage Monday night in Bramlage Coliseum while wearing laser gloves.

DERULO | pg. 3

Into the artwork

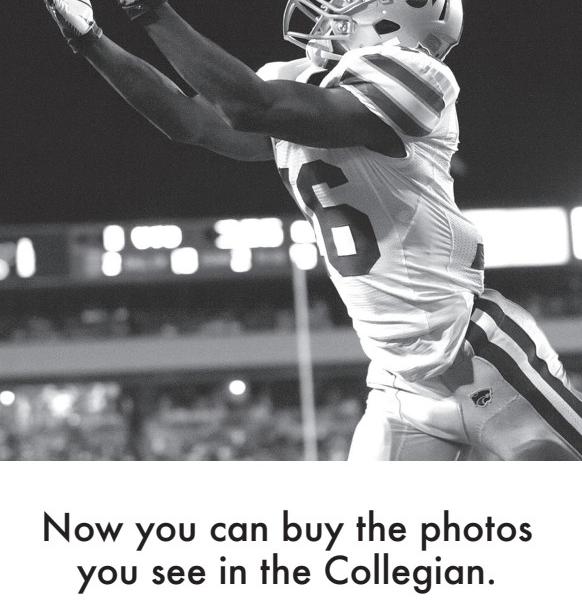
Kate Hagan | Collegian

Yusheng Zhou, freshman in open option, works on his drawing exercise in art class in Willard Hall on Thursday as he uses an existing piece of art for reference. The rest of the class was drawing similar exercises.

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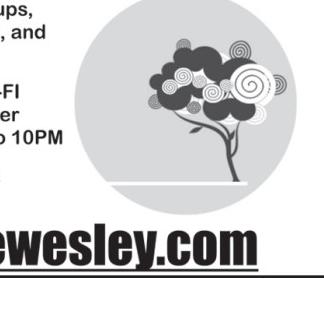
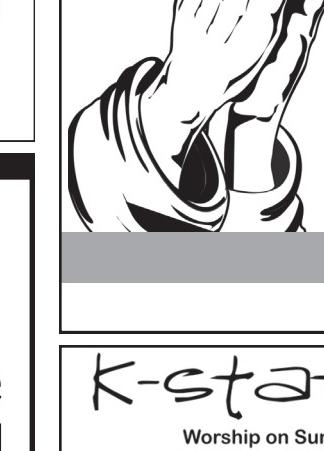
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Check Out the Edge



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the collegian

Atari bankruptcy comes after decades of trouble



Brian Hampel

Atari Inc. filed chapter 11 bankruptcy on Jan. 20. It was soon followed by its French parent company, the similarly named Atari S.A., formerly known as Infogrames.

Naturally, this event prompted journalists to write headlines that prominently featured the phrase, "Game Over." Atari, known for classic games like "Pong" and "Asteroids," has had a roller-coaster existence for decades. Its fall — though it is expected to recover after filing for bankruptcy — should not come as a surprise. The modern Atari is a remnant of an older era that struggled to find its place as the

video game landscape changed. The last 20 years have been rough for Atari, which has not had any huge successes since its Atari 2600 console in the late 1970s. In 1976, at the beginning of Atari's golden age, the company was bought by Warner Communications for about \$30 million (not adjusted for inflation); in 1998, Hasbro bought Atari for only \$5 million. In those intervening 22 years, Atari saw a lot of hardship.

Atari was hit especially hard by the video game crash of 1983 after putting far too much investment behind low-quality Atari 2600 versions of "Pac-Man" and "ET: the Extra-Terrestrial." Those games flopped so hugely that they almost leveled the video game industry. Though its accuracy is disputed, legend has it that there is a New Mexico landfill containing millions of unsold copies of "ET" and "Pac-Man."

The ensuing crash put Atari deeply in debt. It was sold to Namco

to continue life as Atari Corporation. By this point, Atari Corp. bore little resemblance to the Atari that made "Pong." The company spent years attempting to reinvent its brand with new consoles. It succeeded with the Atari 7800 but never fully rebounded to its glory days. A few buyouts later, Atari resembled its '70s counterpart even less.

Atari's only profitable activities in the 21st century were remaking its classic games from the "Pong" era and publishing games from other developers, notably the "Witcher" games. Even these routes were not always guaranteed to make money, and the company continued to struggle.

In 2010, Atari became profitable again by switching its focus to mobile versions of its 1970s classics, which brought in new revenue from downloads and advertising. Still, they were not enough to keep its French parent company afloat. Infogrames had been having financial difficulties since the

mid-2000s. They somehow turned losses in the tens of millions every year despite owning the digital rights to "Transformers," "Unreal Tournament" and the "Civilization" franchise. The Atari mobile games helped it achieve net profits for 2010 and 2011 but ultimately could not overcome the company's downward spiral.

For all of Atari's difficulties, chapter 11 bankruptcy doesn't mean the end of a company. Atari is expected to continue operations as usual, and it will almost certainly reemerge under new ownership. Atari probably won't disappear, but it probably won't return to its glory days, either.

No matter what Atari does in the 2000s, it will always be known as the company that made "Pong" and "Asteroids" in the '70s. Now that the video game world has grown up and seen so much innovation, the games associated with the Atari name simply are not on the radar. The rich graphics, fluid gameplay

and storytelling capabilities of modern titles have made the Atari classics all but obsolete.

Nowadays, who plays "Pong" for anything but nostalgia value? Nostalgia is Atari's greatest strength at this point, but also its greatest weakness. Atari hasn't created a successful game in decades, and it has really relied on the historical value of its arcade hits to stay relevant and profitable.

Even if Atari did disappear completely, I doubt it would be missed. The gaming community would mourn the loss of one of its pioneers — a pioneer that probably introduced a lot of us to the world of video games. But no one is especially attached to the modern Frankenstein-like incarnation of the Atari brand that just filed for bankruptcy. The Atari that we all know and love died a long time ago.

Brian Hampel is a senior in architecture. Please send comments to opinion@kstatecollegian.com.

'It's an art': Living life as Michael Turner, performing as Starla Nyte

Jakki Thompson
staff writer

The audience cheers as entertainer Starla Nyte walks onto the stage. Usually performing a comedy number, she will sometimes mix it up with pop music, but she always lip-syncs to a song by a female artist. The distinct difference between Nyte and other performers is that she is biologically male.

Starla Nyte is a drag queen. Nyte's real name is Michael Turner, sophomore in anthropology, and he performs every weekend as a woman in venues located in Junction City, Manhattan and Topeka. Turner has been performing in drag for a little over three years.

"When I first told my parents about me performing in drag, my mother thought I was transgender, which was really funny for me. I had to ensure her that, no, I enjoy being a boy," Turner said. "It's just a hobby — it's just something that I enjoy doing. It's an artistic form that I really enjoy doing."

Turner said that after he explained his interest in drag to his mother, "She started understanding that it was something that I was really passionate about. She now actually gives me makeup that she doesn't use."

Although his mother had difficulty understanding at first, Turner said his father has always been incredibly supportive of his drag career. His father always asks him how his shows went and where his shows will be, Turner said.

Though performing in drag is a huge part of Turner's identity, he lives his life as a man. Last

fall, Turner transferred to K-State from the University of Kansas. Turner is originally from Manhattan, and upon returning to Manhattan to attend school at K-State, he rushed the Beta Mu chapter of Delta Lambda Phi National Fraternity. He was initiated into the fraternity at the end of the fall 2012 semester.

"I have known Michael [Turner] for about four years now," said Lukus Ebert, current president of Delta Lambda Phi and junior in sociology. "I have seen him grow into an amazing person over the years. He embodies the qualities that make a great brother. He brings a passion that is hard to find in people anymore."

Delta Lambda Phi is the first nationally recognized progressive fraternity for gay men. Turner, who is gay, said he'd known about Delta Lambda Phi long before he ever thought of rushing.

All of Turner's Delta Lambda Phi brothers know he performs as a woman. Ebert said many of the brothers of Delta Lambda Phi have performed in drag, and he feels it adds to the diverse and ever-changing community.

"I love the fraternity because of the bonds and brotherhood that comes along with being a part of it," Turner said. "When I was in high school, the brothers were there for me all the time, and through the tragic experience of one of the brothers committing suicide, we all got a lot closer. It was a bond I could never sever. I love what this brotherhood stands for and their purposes."

Turner has not limited his involvement in the K-State and Manhattan communities to just

his fraternity. Every Tuesday and Thursday night, Turner competes in a bowling league with his father at Little Apple Lanes. Turner is also a part of LGBT & Allies. He feels the LGBT & Allies group is strong in promoting the equality of all students at K-State.

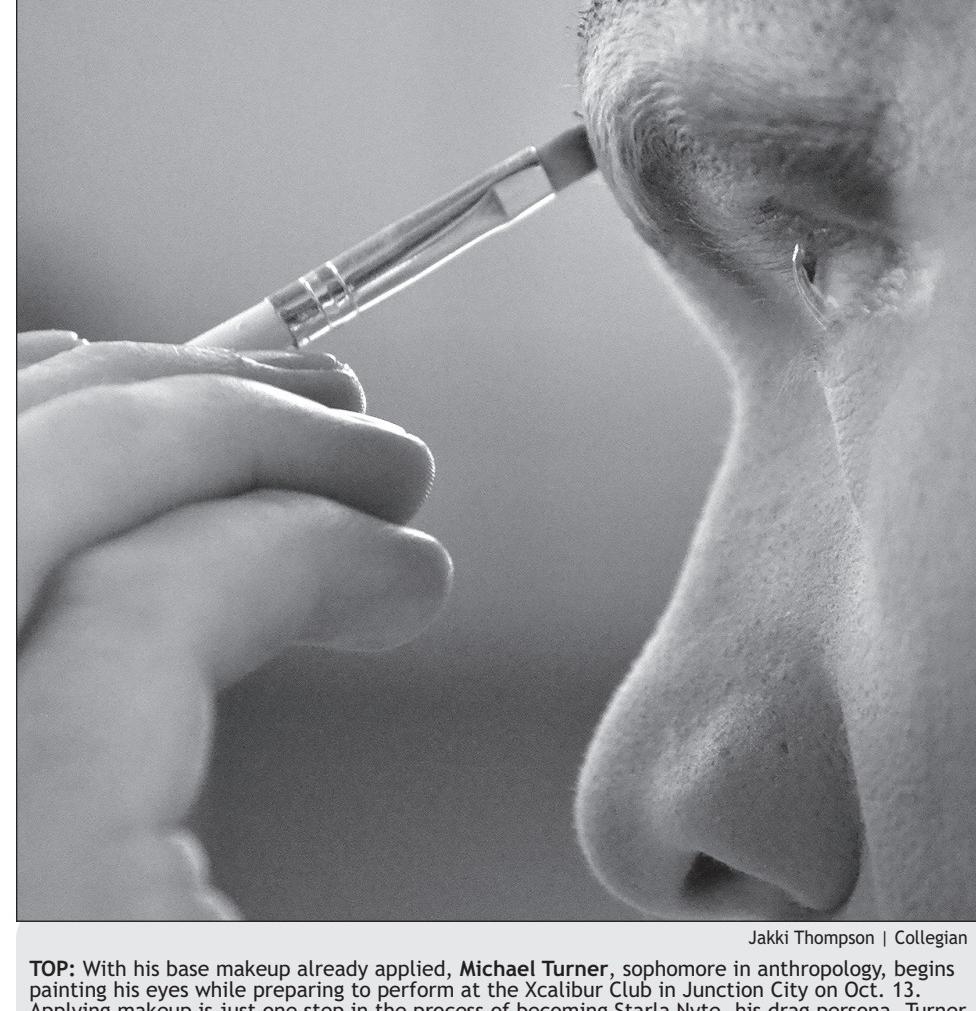
Even as a full-time student involved in multiple campus and community organizations, and with a part-time job at Jimmy John's, Turner says drag is still one of the highest priorities in his life.

Junction City resident Joseph Brock has been performing in drag under the name of Lilikim Chi for about as long as Turner has been performing as Starla Nyte. He said Chi and Nyte, who often perform at the same venues, share an artistic dynamic.

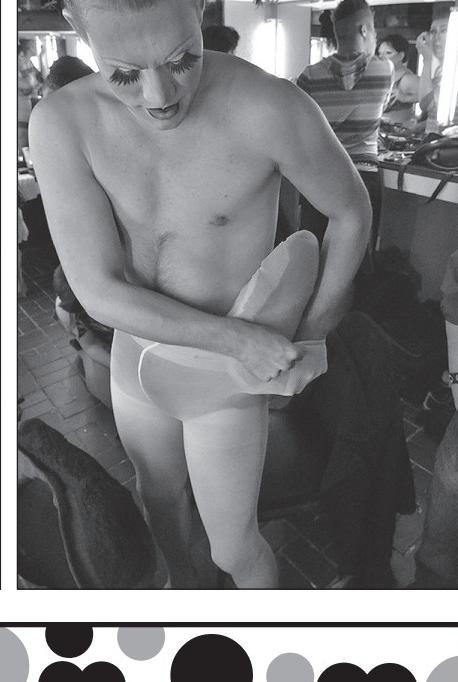
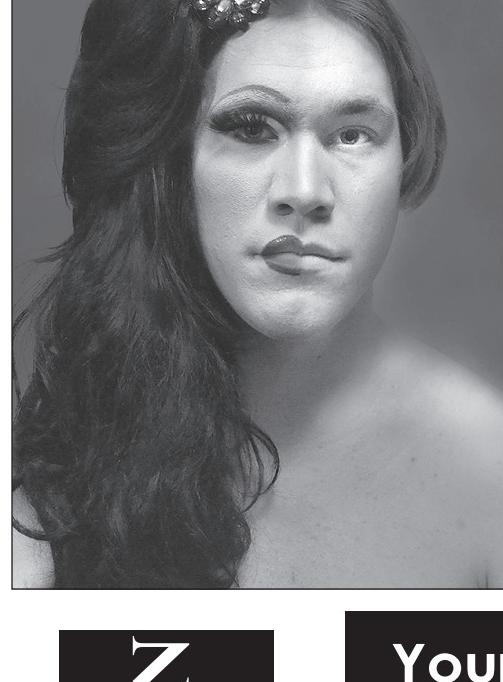
"I do kind of feed off of her," Brock said, referring to Nyte. "We are the same genre of performers, so we end up picking the same songs. It's kind of who gets to the song first. We feed off each other, and we definitely learn from each other."

Like so many other drag performers, Turner and Brock choose to live with two different personas — one as a man and another as a woman. For them, performing as Nyte and Chi is more than just a fun weekend activity; it is an art.

"I just think that more people should open up to the idea of drag," Brock said. "It's not just boys dressing up as girls or gay boys dressing up as girls because they want to. It's a completely different aspect. It's an art. It's an expression of the appreciation of the female body, the female aspect and just females in general."



TOP: With his base makeup already applied, Michael Turner, sophomore in anthropology, begins painting his eyes while preparing to perform at the Xcalibur Club in Junction City on Oct. 13. Applying makeup is just one step in the process of becoming Starla Nyte, his drag persona. Turner performs as Nyte in the Xcalibur Club on Friday nights. **BOTTOM LEFT:** "I am a man. I live life as a man. But come weekend nights, I perform as a woman," Turner said. "I don't want to be a woman. It's just very fun to perform as one." **BOTTOM CENTER:** With her wig in place, Starla Nyte hits the stage while jumping around to her infamous "Dick Mix" track at Skivies Bar & Grill in Topeka on Nov. 11. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Turner stuffs a piece of foam into his pantyhose to achieve Starla Nyte's more feminine figure before performing at Skivies on Nov. 18.



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STAY UP-TO-DATE

Did Phoenix coaching change benefit Michael Beasley?



John Zetmeir

started in 20 with an average of 10.5 points per game.

Yes, injuries have occurred, but what could be the reason for Beasley's inconsistency?

The Phoenix Suns parted ways with head coach Alvin Gentry on Jan. 18. Since Gentry's dismissal, Beasley has been on a run of good form. In the five games without Gentry, Beasley has averaged 18.2 points per game while shooting 53.4 percent from the field. On Wednesday night, the Suns played host to the Los Angeles Lakers, a team desperate for a win every night, and thanks to Michael Beasley, the Lakers left with another game in the loss column.

Beasley had his best

game in a Suns uniform. He finished with 27 points on 10 percent shooting, six rebounds and five steals.

This game left fans like myself wondering why we don't see games like this more often. But there may not be a clear-cut answer. Injuries, lack of motivation, coaching and off-the-court incidents are all on the list. When he is motivated and playing well, he could be the best player on any team in the NBA.

Will his recent run of

form continue and get him back into the starting lineup? Only time will tell. But what I do know is that All-Star weekend is around the corner, and Michael Beasley is talented enough to be playing in that game every year. It may be too late for Beasley to be an All-Star this year, but he can still finish the season off like one.

Last offseason, Beasley left Minnesota and signed with the Phoenix Suns where it appeared that the former college star would get a clean slate. Of the first 42 games, Beasley has only

John Zetmeir is a sophomore in pre-journalism and mass communications. Please send comments to opinion@kstatecollegian.com.

File photo | Collegian

Former K-State forward Michael Beasley, pictured here with the Wildcats in 2008, now plays for the Phoenix Suns and had a breakout game Wednesday, scoring 27 points against the Los Angeles Lakers. After a stellar freshman season at K-State, Beasley became the second overall pick in the 2008 NBA Draft, but his inconsistent performance in the pros has been questioned, with some blaming it on a lack of effort.

Weekend preview: track, basketball

David Embers
staff writer

Auburn. The Wildcats are currently ranked No. 6.

The men's and women's basketball teams will take to the courts on Saturday.

Men's head coach Bruce Weber will take his team to Norman, Okla., on Saturday to take on the Sooners (14-5, 5-2 Big 12) at 5 p.m. The Wildcats (16-4, 5-2) won on Wednesday night against Texas. Currently, the Wildcats sit at No. 18 in the AP polls and 32 in the RPI. Oklahoma is currently 16 in the RPI and tied for second in the Big 12 with K-State and Baylor. The game, which starts at 5 p.m., is being

aired on ESPN2.

To round out the weekend's events, the women's basketball team will host in-state rival Kansas. The Wildcats are currently 12-8 (3-5 in Big 12 play) after losing a tough road battle to Texas last week. The team is depleted by injuries and is leaning heavily on 3-point shooting to equalize the lack of depth. Senior guard Brittany Chambers continues to lead the Wildcats, averaging almost 20 points per contest. The game tips off at 2 p.m. and will be televised locally on Cox channel 22 and on Metro Sports in the Kansas City area.

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The Fourum is a quirky view of campus life in voices from the K-State community. Positive and humorous comments are selected for publication by the Collegian marketing staff.

Frank Martin's South Carolina scores 10 points in a half against a Florida team we beat. Sorry Frank, don't miss ya!

Natural Disasters teacher is talking about lubricants and constant pounding ... Maybe I should start paying attention

Dude, the Uggs game is so three years ago. This year? The leggings game.

They told me if I love The Fourum I should let it go and if it comes back then I will know. I guess they were right. We are meant to be together.

I'm the guy who said vitamin C. You got me. I'm wrong. All hail the Sunny D!

There's yellowish footprints in the snow. Either someone walked through clay, or someone has great aim.

To the guy I saw walking to class through the snow in shorts and a T-shirt: I salute you.

Bill Snyder 2016

There is a special circle in hell reserved for people who hashtag in the Fourum.

Come on guys, the Fourum is not Twitter #nohashtags

I got into the Forum yesterday! Does this mean I'm a journalist now?

Editor's note: To submit your Fourum contribution, call or text 785-260-0207 or email theforum@kstatecollegian.com. Your email address or phone number is logged but not published. You can see the rest of today's posts at theforum.kstatecollegian.com.

THE BEST OF THE FOURUM

Of course, the day I don't wear underwear under my skirt we take a field trip ... and it's windy.

-- You might try not NOT wearing underwear. Problem solved.

I wish I could enter the mind of a squirrel on campus for a day.

-- Attach a camera to one. That is as close as you'll get.

Thanks for folding my scarf I dropped outside Eisenhower and setting it on a bench! EMAW.

-- You're welcome! Love, the campus squirrels.

I need a job, think I can write for the Fourum?

-- No. That is my job.

Hey Fourum, as a 5th year, I thought I'd never see you again. Here's looking at you, kid.

-- Finally back from my sabbatical. Missed you.

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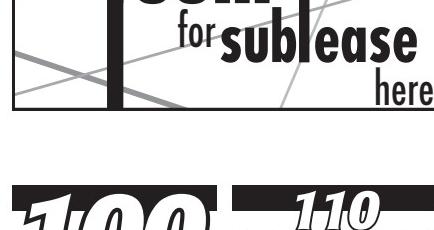
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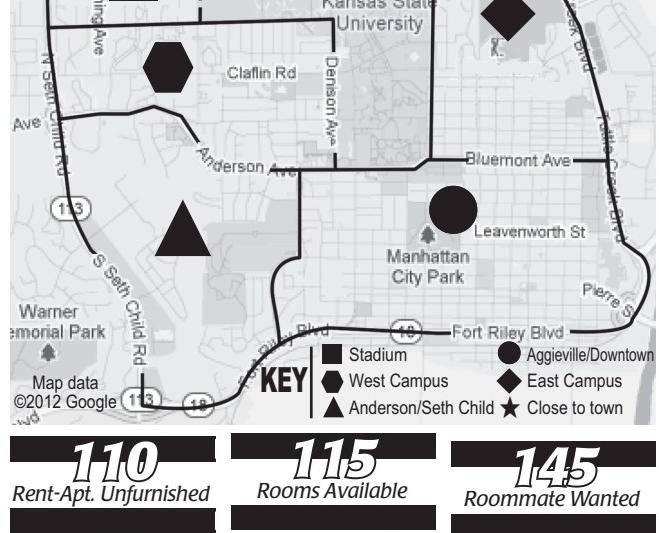
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BRIEFS | Death prompts ESPN review

Continued from page 1

Nieto apologized for the event on Twitter and came to the scene to help authorities with injured citizens, along with the mayor of Mexico City, Miguel Mancera.

Investigations are currently underway to determine the cause of the explosion.

Phoenix office shooter found dead

The man responsible for an office shooting in Phoenix was found dead Thursday from self-inflicted gun wounds. Arthur Harmon's body was found near a rented Kia Optima, his getaway

car.

Harmon shot and killed a businessman and critically injured lawyer from a company he had sued Wednesday as the three men were leaving from a meeting they had arranged to settle the case.

A Thursday article in the New York Times reported that the critically-injured lawyer is not expected to survive.

Winter X Games contestant dies from sport injuries

Professional snowmobiler Caleb Moore, 25, died Thursday from injuries caused by his crash one week ago in the Winter X

Games.

According to a Thursday CNN report, Moore's snowmobile crashed down on him when he was unable to properly flip in midair, severely injuring his head and chest. Moore's brother Colten was also injured in the Winter X Games, held last Thursday in Aspen, Colo., but was released Saturday from the hospital.

ESPN released a statement offering condolences to Moore's family and saying that they will "conduct a thorough review of this discipline and adopt any appropriate changes to future X Games."

How about them apples?



K-State's women's 4-H scholarship house, Alpha of Clovia, gathers at Varsity Donuts in Aggierville to play a game of Apples to Apples on Thursday.

Check out the Religion Directory every Friday

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Alex Helfrich, sophomore in open option, measures out her 3-D abstract vessel project in Willard Hall on Thursday.

CLUB | Parachuting 'as dangerous as you make it,' club president says

Continued from page 1

Gus Garcia, junior in sociology, who made his first jump in Mississippi this year and joined the club at K-State to pursue his skydiving license, said the group has a distinct family atmosphere.

"We all help each other out a lot," he said. "If we're trying to learn something new, someone's always there with some good advice."

Garcia has one jump to go before he completes the 25 required to obtain a Class A skydiving license from the USPA, which would allow him to pack his own parachute, jump without supervision, perform water jumps and participate in group jumps. He hopes to finish this process with a jump this weekend.

According to January, a prospective jumper with no prior experience could complete the club's first jump course on a Friday evening and make his or her first jump the next day.

"Basically, we tell you everything you need to know,"

he said. "We do that pretty much every other week during the semester, weather permitting."

A typical freefall usually lasts between 45 seconds and a minute, followed by a three-minute parachute ride, according to January. Then, the jumpers repack their chutes and head back to the skies for another round.

"Your freefall speed is about 120 miles per hour," January said. "But you can only feel acceleration, so when you jump out of a plane moving 90 mph, you only feel your speed increase by 30, and that's not all that much."

January said the approximate cost of someone's first jump is around \$170, including gear rental, club dues and the lift fee for the club plane, known as the Green Machine. Subsequent jumps cost between \$30 and \$40 until the jumper obtains a license, at which point the cost drops to around \$20. Because the club is not for profit, according to January, it can provide some of the

lowest costs on the market to beginning skydivers.

"We're the cheapest place you're going to find your license, probably in the nation," he said. "We make enough money to keep the club going, and that's it."

January also downplayed the danger associated with leaping bodily from an aircraft thousands of feet above the ground.

"The parachutes are actually really forgiving. You'd have to really screw up bad when you're packing your chute for there to be any danger," he said. "It's really as dangerous as you make it."

According to January, only 1 in 100,000 jumpers is killed in a parachuting accident. He said that most of these result from careless mistakes on the part of the jumpers, such as turning too sharply or colliding with another jumper.

"You can't really describe the feeling unless you do it," Garcia said. "But it's fun. Sure, it's a little dangerous, but if you're not doing something a little risky, where's the fun?"

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